

## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Please amend claims 1 and 15-21 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A latch system, comprising

a latch mechanism having and containing at least one sealed area and at least one unsealed area thereof; and

a magnetic coupling mechanism for coupling motion between said at least one sealed area and said at least one unsealed area and vice versa.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said magnetic coupling mechanism comprises at least one permanent magnet, which generates a magnetic field for coupling said motion from said unsealed area to said sealed area and vice versa.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said magnetic coupling mechanism comprises at least one electromagnet for generating a magnetic field for coupling motion between said at least one sealed area and said at least one unsealed area and vice versa.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said latch mechanism comprises a door latch mechanism for respectively latching and unlatching a door open and closed.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein said door latch mechanism comprises a vehicle door latch mechanism.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein said door latch mechanism comprises a vehicle door latch mechanism for an automobile.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a shaft coupled to said magnetic coupling mechanism for engaging said sealed area with said unsealed area.

8. (Original) A latch system, comprising

a latch mechanism having at least one sealed area and at least one unsealed area thereof; and

a magnetic coupling mechanism for coupling motion between said at least one sealed area and said at least one unsealed area and vice versa, wherein said magnetic coupling mechanism comprises at least one permanent magnet, which generates a magnetic field for coupling said motion from said unsealed area to said sealed area and vice versa.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein said latch mechanism comprises a door latch mechanism for respectively latching and unlatching a door open and closed.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein said door latch mechanism comprises a vehicle door latch mechanism.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein said door latch mechanism comprises a vehicle door latch mechanism for an automobile.

12. (Original) The system of claim 8 further comprising a shaft coupled to said magnetic coupling mechanism for engaging said sealed area with said unsealed area.

13. (Original) The system of claim 8 further comprising a plurality of shafts coupled to said magnetic coupling mechanism for engaging said sealed area with said unsealed area.

14. (Original) A latch method, comprising the steps of:

providing a latch mechanism having at least one sealed area and at least one unsealed area thereof; and

coupling motion between said at least one sealed area and said at least one unsealed area and vice versa utilizing a magnetic coupling mechanism.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 ~~13~~ further comprising the step of configuring said magnetic coupling mechanism to comprise at least one permanent magnet, which generates a magnetic field for coupling said motion from said unsealed area to said sealed area and vice versa.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 ~~13~~ further comprising the step of configuring said coupling mechanism to comprise at least one electromagnet for generating a magnetic field for coupling motion between said at least one sealed area and said at least one unsealed area and vice versa.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 ~~13~~ further comprising the step of configuring said latch mechanism to comprise a door latch mechanism for respectively latching and unlatching a door open and closed.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 ~~16~~ wherein said door latch mechanism comprises a vehicle door latch mechanism.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 ~~17~~ wherein said door latch mechanism comprises a vehicle door latch mechanism for an automobile.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 ~~13~~ further comprising the step of coupling a shaft to said magnetic coupling mechanism for engaging said sealed area with said unsealed area.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 ~~13~~ further comprising the step of coupling a plurality of shafts to said magnetic coupling mechanism for engaging said sealed area with said unsealed area.